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The Impact of the Loss of a Mother

A mother’s love is phenomenal. She is the first flame to a child’s life. She’s the guidance and role model to almost any problem a child can have throughout their lifespan. It was so devastating when my mother past a way ten years ago, at the time of her death I was only 13 years old and just beginning the start of my high school years. I can tell you, based on personal experience that losing a mother at an early age is one of the most stressful and impactful life events a person can face. It can significantly alter your life.

After the death of my mother, I relocated in order to reside with my grandparents and the rest of my extended family. My grandparents treated me like I was one of their own, therefore, I always felt loved and appreciated. However, on the other hand, just a few blocks from my house a friend of mine loss his mother in a car accident a few years prior to the loss of my mother. He was always complaining to me about the fact that his family does not love him and how he was tired of being alive. Basically, he felt neglected by his parents. On one particular occasion he even went as far as running away from home to go live with a friend in order to release his anger and outlook on his family. Therefore, if a child loses a mother and never receives adequate substitute mothering, the lost can do long term damage to his or her self-esteem, ability to relate to other people, overall feelings of security and ability to trust others.

Ideally, children are raised with two loving parents to care for and support them. In some instances, however, this is not the case. When a child is left motherless as a result of divorce, separation or death, the child may experience problems associated with this absence. The degree to which the absence of a mother impacts a child depends on a variety of factors. Everything from the gender of the child to the age, at which the child loses his mother, can play a vital part in determining how harshly the child feels the effects of not having his or her maternal parent.

In the movie, *Lars and the real girl,* Lars mother passed away while giving birth to him. This affected Lars greatly. He was rejected by his parents and because of that he did not want to communicate with anyone. Thus, he becomes antisocial, uncaring, bitter, and have a hard time relating with others. Lars was not able to experience a mother’s love and as a result he became delusional. He purchased a life-sized doll and names her Bianca as a way to gain attachment and have an opportunity to socialize with real humans. He uses her as a filter and strategy to communicate because he is carrying an emotional baggage, which is the death of his mother during child delivering.

Lars exemplified social issues due to his loss. He always wanted to be closed in and left alone. It was not until Margo came along and changed his life. After Lars made a connection with Margo, he began to live a healthier lifestyle. He was able to interact with his brother, sister-in-law, and the rest of the community. Basically, having someone to rely on and relate to can help you overcome obstacles you are going through no matter how great or small it may be.

Every human needs guidance and someone to connect with, which comes from a mother. The loss of a mother regardless of the cause is a very traumatic experience. It affects the child for life. I urge anyone to reach out and comfort anyone who has experienced the loss of someone. This comfort can be the difference between life and death. Everyone needs a helping hand and a shoulder to lean on to prevent them from alienating themselves from society.

Work Cited

*Lars and the Real Girl.* Dir. Craig Gillespie. Perf. Ryan Gosling, Emily Mortimer, Paul Schneider, Kelli Garner, Patricia Clarkson. 2007. Film.